

Session 6
Hebrews 5:11-6:12 A Warning to the Perpetual Babies

When you start school you learn the alphabet and easy numbers. After a while you're doing sums and writing sentences. By the time you hit your teens, you should be able to help your little brother or sister with their homework. Maturity isn't just growing older, it also involves becoming more useful, yielding more fruit, bringing more benefit. If you refuse to grow up, which way can you go? Backwards is impossible!

- A. They have remained persistently childish in their faith 5:11-14
 - 1. They have *become* dull, suggesting they used to be keen 5:11
 - 2. They are stuck in infancy, even after a long time 5:12
 - 3. Their immaturity jeopardizes their integrity 5:13-14
- B. They have no option but to move forward 6:1-8
 - 1. It is essential to get past the simple subjects 6:1-2
 - a. Faith over ceremonial or ritual works
 - b. Baptism over repetitive ceremonial washings
 - c. Conferment of authority?
 - d. Resurrection and judgment
 - 2. We must move forward, so we will (by God's grace) 6:3
 - 3. An impossibility and an illustration from farming 6:4-8
 - a. You cannot be saved, lost and saved again 6:4-6
(But which is the impossible step?)
 - b. But you can cease to grow and stop yielding fruit 6:7-8
When you stop cultivating, you stop being useful
When a useless field is burned, it's for revitalization, not destruction.
The field still belongs to the owner, and fruitfulness is expected to improve.

Question: Read 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. Is this talking about a believer? What does Paul say is the fate of the believer who builds carelessly?

- C. The author is confident in the Hebrews 6:9-12
 - 1. Confident in their past character as believers 6:9-10
 - 2. Confident in their future diligence 6:11-12
- D. The Hebrews can be confident in God's promise 6:13-20
 - 1. God made a unilateral promise to Abraham 6:13-15
 - 2. God in turn makes a similar, but additional promise to us 6:16-17
 - 3. Both promises are unbreakable 6:18
 - 4. The promises lead us back to Christ and Melchizedek! 6:19-20